

<http://www.uvm.edu/~vlrs/>

Maple Sugaring Regulations

- (5) Free from cloudiness, turbidity, and sediment (and therefore clean);
- (6) No deviants for damage.⁴

Maple syrup is also categorized by color, which is determined by the following:

- (a) The percent of light transmission through the syrup as measured with a spectrophotometer using matched square optical cells having a 10mm light path at a wavelength of 560 nm. The color value is expressed as percent of light transmission as compared to analytical reagent glycerol fixed at 100 percent. Percent transmission is symbolized by "%Tc."
- (b) Any method that provides equivalent results.⁵

The four types of Grade A color are golden, amber, dark, and very dark.⁶ Any maple syrup that does not meet Grade A requirements is labeled as "Processing Grade."⁷ Processing Grade syrup may not be packaged for individual consumer sale, and must be sold in containers of five gallons or more.⁸ Processing Grade syrup "fails to meet the requirements of Grade A, but possesses a fairly good characteristic maple taste and may contain off-flavors, but is fairly free of damage, fairly free of

grading of maple products in Canada.¹² Maple graders are CFIA inspectors or managers of CFIA-approved facilities and are responsible for determining the grade of each producer's maple syrup.¹³

States of the Northern Forest (excluding Vermont)

Maine

Quebec

The regulatory system for maple products in Canada was created under the Agricultural Products Marketing Act, R.S.C. 1985, c. A-6.³⁰ The two regulations within this statute pertaining to the maple industry in Quebec are the Quebec Maple Sap and Maple Syrup Order, SOR/93-154, and the Quebec Maple Syrup Producers' Levy (Interprovincial and Export Trade) Order, SOR/93-195.

The Quebec Maple Sap and Maple Syrup Order authorizes the Federation of Quebec Maple Syrup Producers (FPAQ) to regulate the sale of maple sap and maple syrup for trade between Canadian provinces and for exports. The order also authorizes the federation to impose and collect levies on actors involved in the production or bulk sale of maple products in Quebec, to classify these people into groups, and to levy different charges based on the groupings. Levies may be used for " the creation of reserves, the payment of expenses and losses resulting from the sale or disposal of maple sap and maple syrup and the equalization or adjustment among the producers of maple sap and maple syrup of moneys realized from the sale thereof during such period or periods as the Commodity Board may determine." ³¹

The Quebec Maple Syrup r e re

Vermont

According to Matthew Gordon, the Executive Director of the Vermont Maple Sugar Makers' Association, Vermont does not regulate by acreage or number of taps that sugar bush owners have or operate.³⁶ Many of Vermont regulations pertain to land registration, marketing, packaging, labeling, and adherence to the USDA grading system. Vermont's Use Value Appraisal (UVA) Program allows private lands to be appraised based on production value instead of residential or commercial value.³⁷ Sugarmakers enroll in the UVA program through the Vermont Department of Taxes and are required to uphold certain standards set by and regulated by the County Foresters.³⁸

Regulations regarding the marketing, packaging, and labeling of maple syrup are focused on the use of words and images related to Vermont. Producers and packers must keep detailed records of maple product sales with the word "Vermont" or the abbreviation "Vt." on the label or container.³⁹ Concise records of all maple products that are produced in Vermont or with Vermont maple products must be kept for the Vermont Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets.⁴⁰ Dealers and processors must maintain records containing the amount of syrup purchased and the name and address of the seller for three years. Failure to maintain these records could result in license loss or refusal.⁴¹ The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Food and Markets also sets packaging standards for maple products. All packages must be clean and free of rust with airtight tops and tamper proof seals.⁴²

Conclusion

All four Northern Forest states (Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont) adhere to the USDA maple grade regulations, but systems of business and land registration for maple producers vary by state. Minor differences exist between the states' labeling and marketing requirements. All of the states are protective of the authenticity of their unique state brand. Quebec has a more complex and in-depth regulatory system involving maple production quotas. Rather than being regulated by the government, maple products are regulated by The

